THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. India has finalised its initial offer in services in the context of the on-going negotiations under the General Agreement on Trade in Services at the WTO.

(b) and (c) In the initial offer, improvements in the commitments offered in existing sectors as well as introduction of new sectors have been effected. Commitments have been offered in the service sectors of Accounting and Book Keeping, Health, Computer and related services, Telecommunications, Construction and Engineering, Financial, tourism and Travel related services and Maritime Transport services in various modes of supply. The modes of supply in which commitments are offered vary from sector to sector, although overall, all modes are covered. This offer is conditional in nature and binding commitments would eventually be framed after a careful assessment of the counter offers made by other Member countries at the WTO. The elements of the offer are subject to change over the coming months as negotiations in the WTO progress.

Research project on Ayurveda

*94. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fifteen medical scientists from USA came in October for a research project on Ayurveda;

(b) if so, whether this research project resulted in opening of new avenues for Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine;

(c) the export targets in monetary terms for the year 2004 for traditional medicines; and

(d) whether the country is adequately equipped to effectively show-case the herbal heritage of India to the interested foreign medical professionals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fifteen Medical Scientists from USA came to participate in the Indo-US Workshop on "Traditional Indian System of Medicine Research", jointly organized by the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), (formerly Department of ISM&H), Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, Government of India and the National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), National Institute of Health (NIH), U.S.A. from October 20-24, 2003. The issues discussed in the Workshop included various areas of collaborative research in the field of Ayurveda.

(c) The export target for the year 2003-2004 has been kept at Rs. 1256 crores for traditional medicines which includes Rs. 824 crores for finished formulations of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines and Rs. 432 crores for crude drugs.

(d) India has the infrastructure and capacity to project its herbal heritage to the interested foreign medical professionals.

Export of Herbs and Herbal drugs from Uttaranchal

*95. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has allowed export of certain herbs and herbal drugs produced in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details and names thereof and the extent of quantity and value of herbs and herbal drugs likely to be exported during the year 2003-04;

(c) whether the State Government and private agencies have sought permission for export of more herbs and herbal drugs; and

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Department of Commerce has no specific or separate policy for allowing the export of herbs and herbal drugs produced in Uttaranchal. However, the Office of Directorate General of Foreign Trade, has issued a Notification No. 3 dated 31st March 2003, according to which plant and plant portions obtained from the wild and their cultivated varieties, except for 29 species of plants listed in Appendix 2 of Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Import & Export items, 2002-2007 and certain species of plants listed under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) are freely exportable with No Objection Certificate/Cultivation Certificate from Government Authorities. Formulations made from the 29 prohibited species are freely exportable.